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Nov 7, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020165803 A1

TITLE: Information processing system

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0012] The invention provides an information processing system for processing information in a shop, the system comprising a portable device possessed by a user and a host computer for communication with the portable device, the portable device comprising: request means for requesting information on a predetermined finished article from the host computer in order to make the predetermined finished article; input means for inputting ingredient information put near an ingredient or on an ingredient placed within the shop, when necessary ingredients for making the finished article are purchased; and first memory means for storing the ingredient information input by the input means, and the host computer comprises: memory means for storing a plurality of finished article names and ingredient names of ingredients necessary for making the finished articles; first acquisition means for acquiring the name of an ingredient necessary for making the finished article by searching the second memory means, when a finished article information request is received from the portable device; second acquisition means for acquiring the ingredient information stored in the first memory means on the ingredient purchased to make the finished article; detection means for detecting the name of one or more deficient ingredients for making the finished article by comparing one or more ingredient names acquired from the ingredient information acquired by the second acquisition means and one or more ingredient names acquired by the first acquisition means; and transmission means for transmitting to the portable device the information on the one or more deficient ingredient names detected by the detection means.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0013] The invention provides an information processing system for processing information in a shop, the system comprising a portable device possessed by a user and a host computer for communication with the portable device, the portable device comprising: request means for ~~requesting information on a predetermined dish from the host computer in order to make the dish~~; input means for inputting ingredient information put near an ingredient or on an ingredient placed within the shop, when necessary ingredients for making the dish are purchased; and first memory means for storing the ingredient information input by the input means, and the host computer comprises: second memory means for storing a plurality of dish names and names of ingredients necessary for making each dish; first acquisition means for acquiring the name of an ingredient necessary for making the dish by searching the second memory means, when a dish information request is received from the portable device; second acquisition means for acquiring the ingredient information stored in the first memory means on the ingredient purchased to make the dish; detection means for detecting the name of one or more deficient ingredients for making the dish by comparing one or more ingredient names obtained from the ingredient information acquired by the second acquisition means and one or more ingredient names acquired by the first acquisition means; and transmission means for transmitting to the portable device the information on the one or more deficient ingredient names detected by the detection means.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0017] The invention provides an information processing system for processing information in a shop, the system comprising a portable device possessed by a user, a host computer for communication with the portable device, and a digital multi-functional peripheral that is variously settable and connected to the host computer, the portable device comprising: input means for inputting ingredient information put near an ingredient or on an ingredient placed within the shop, when necessary ingredients for making a dish are purchased; first memory means for storing the ingredient information input by the input means; and transmission means for transmitting to the host computer total information obtained by totaling the ingredient

information stored in the first memory means, when an accounting process for the ingredients purchased in the shop is carried out, and the host computer comprises: second memory means for storing a plurality of dish names, names of ingredients necessary for making each dish, and a recipe of each dish; specifying means for searching the second memory means with one or more ingredient names obtainable from the total information, when total information on the ingredients purchased by the portable device is received, and specifying one or more dish names of a dish preparable from one or more ingredients; search means for searching for recipe information on one or more dishes stored in the memory means, on the basis of one or more dish names specified by the specifying means; and control means for performing a control to print out the recipe information on one or more dishes searched by the search means through the digital multifunctional peripheral.

Brief Description of Drawings Paragraph:

[0029] FIG. 12 shows an example of the structure of a recipe table in a recipe database;

Brief Description of Drawings Paragraph:

[0030] FIG. 13 shows an example of the structure of an ingredient table in the recipe database;

Brief Description of Drawings Paragraph:

[0035] FIG. 18 shows an example of the structure of a substitute ingredient table in the recipe database;

Brief Description of Drawings Paragraph:

[0055] FIG. 38 shows an example of a printed-out paella recipe. 27

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0084] 5. A recipe available with purchased food can be provided. In addition, a deficient article of food for a pre-selected recipe can be indicated.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0087] 8. When an accounting procedure for the commodity (or commodity information) purchased using the mobile phone 1 is carried out by the cash register 4 in the shop, a recipe, etc. can be printed out along with a receipt and handed to the customer.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0088] FIG. 4 shows an example of the structure of the database 30. The database 30 comprises a customer database (DB) 31, a telephone directory database (DB) 32, a customer-specific purchased commodity database (DB) 33, an inventory database (DB) 34, a recipe database (DB) 35, a coupon database (DB) 36 and a delivery database (DB) 37. This structure of the database 30 is only an example, and more databases may be provided. Alternatively, some of these databases may be integrated to reduce the number of databases.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0106] FIGS. 12 and 13 show examples of the structure of the recipe DB 35. FIG. 12 shows a recipe table 35a indicating the kind of recipe in the recipe DB 35. The recipe table 35a of recipe DB 35 comprises a dish name and a recipe file name. A file associated with the recipe file name shows details of a recipe. If the content of the file is printed out, the procedure of cooking is understood. For example, when the dish name is "Paella", the recipe file name is "File 001.doc" and the details of the recipe of this dish is stored in this file.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0107] In addition, the recipe DB 35 has an ingredient table 35b shown in FIG. 13. The ingredients of dishes are stored in the ingredient table 35b shown in FIG. 13. The ingredient table 35b comprises a dish name and ingredients. For example, the ingredients of the dish name "Paella" are "rice", "opinion", "garlic" and "red bell pepper."

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0112] FIG. 18 shows an example of the structure of the substitute ingredient table 35c in the recipe DB 35. The substitute ingredient table 35c is used to provide a customer, who asks for an out-of-stock ingredient of a dish of a recipe, with information on other substitute ones. Thus, the substitute commodity table 35c comprises a dish name, an ingredient and a substitute ingredient. For example, information on substitute ingredient "Beef" or "Mutton" may be

provided for the ingredient "Chicken" of the dish name "Paella."

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0120] FIG. 19 shows a menu screen 100, as an example of display, on the display section 8 of mobile phone 1. The menu screen 100 is displayed by operating the operation section 9 of mobile phone 1, as mentioned above. The menu screen 100 displays four choice items and a "Return" box. Specifically, it displays "Purchase" 101, "Commodity information" 102, "Inventory confirmation" 103, "Recipe" 104, and "Return" box 105.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0121] To begin with, an operation will be described, when the "Purchase" 101 has been chosen on the menu screen 100.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0122] If the "Purchase" 101 has been chosen on the menu screen 100 by the operation of the operation section 9 of mobile phone 1, the control section 11 enters the connection mode for connection with the shop host 2. In the connection mode with the shop host 2, the display section 8 displays a commodity purchase screen 110 as shown in FIG. 20. Thereby, a commodity can be purchased in the shop.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0123] The commodity purchase screen 110 displays "Add" 111, "Delete" 112, "Use coupon" 113, "Recipe-specific deficient ingredient" 114, "Gift" 115, "Total" 116, and "Return" box 117.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0132] A description will now be given of the operation in a case where "Recipe" 104 has been chosen on the menu screen 100.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0133] If the "Recipe" 104 is chosen by the operation of the operation section 9 on the menu screen 100, the control section 11 enters the connection mode for connection with the shop host 2. In the connection mode with the shop host 2, the display section 8 displays a recipe screen 180 as shown in FIG. 27. Recipes of dishes are displayed. The recipe screen 180 displays two items: "Recipes" 181, which are all recipes, and "Recipe for use of bargain items" 182, which recipes for dishes to be cooked using bargain commodities.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0134] When "Recipes" 181 is chosen and determined on the recipe screen 180, the control section 11 acquires information of dish names from the recipe table 35a in the recipe DB 35 of the shop host 2, and enables the display section 8 to display a recipe screen 180 shown in FIG. 28. If the recipes (dish names) cannot be contained within the screen of the display section 8, they may be displayed by using a scroll function. The recipe screen 190 displays the screen name "Recipe" 191, and dish names "1. Paella" 192, "Ham gratin" 193, "oyster chowder" 194, "Souffl cheeseecake" 195 and "Spanish omelet" 196, as well as "Choose" box 197, "Display ingredients" box 198 and "Return" box 199.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0135] When a dish name is chosen and determined and "Choose" box 197 is chosen on the recipe screen 190, the control section 11 registers this dish name in the memory 12.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0136] When a dish name (e.g. paella) is chosen and determined and "Display ingredients" box 198 is chosen on the recipe screen 190, the control section 11 acquires ingredient information of the dish name (paella) from the recipe table 35b in the recipe DB 35 of shop host 2, and enables the display section 8 to display an ingredient screen 200 as shown in FIG. 29. In this example, the ingredient screen 200 displays the screen name "Ingredients" 201, the dish name "Paella" 202, and ingredients "Rice" 203, "Onion" 204, "Garlic" 205, "Red bell pepper" 206 and "Green pepper" 207, as well as "Return" box 208.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0137] If the screen is returned to the commodity purchase screen 110 shown in FIG. 20 and "Recipe-specific deficient ingredient" 114 is chosen, the control section 11 enables the display section 8 to display a recipe-specific deficient ingredient screen 210 as shown in FIG.

30. The recipe-specific deficient ingredient screen 210 displays the dish names registered in the memory 12 by the customer.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0138] For example, when "1. Paella" is chosen and determined and "Choose" box 204 is chosen on the recipe-specific deficient ingredient screen 210, the control section 11 enables the display section 8 to display a deficient-ingredient-for-paella screen 220 as shown in FIG. 31. The deficient-ingredient-for-paella screen 220 displays the screen name "Deficient ingredients for paella" 221 and deficient ingredients "Octopus" 222, "Chicken" 223, "Saffron" 224, as well as "Substitute commodity guidance" box 225 and "Return" box 226. This screen displays a check result obtained by the control section 11, which has checked non-purchased ingredients for paella.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0139] If any of the displayed ingredients is out of stock in the shop, that ingredient is chosen and determined and "Substitute commodity guidance" box 225 is chosen, the control section 11 provides information on the substitute commodity. Specifically, the control section 11 acquires, from the recipe table 35c in the recipe DB 35 of shop host 2, substitute commodity information for the deficient ingredient for the dish (e.g. paella), and displays the acquired information on the display section 8. Thereby, information on ingredients of a dish, including information on deficient ingredients, can be provided.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0140] A description will now be given of an operation in a case where the "Commodity information" 102 has been chosen on the menu screen 100.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0141] When the "Commodity information" 102 is chosen on the menu screen 100 by the operation of the operation section 9, the control section 11 enters a connection mode for connection with the shop host 2. In the connection mode with the shop host 2, the display section 8 shows a Web information screen 230 shown in FIG. 32. The Web information screen 230 displays "Web information" 231, "Information" 232 and "Return" box 233.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0144] An operation in a case where the "Inventory confirmation" 103 has been chosen on the menu screen 100 will now be described.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0145] When the "Inventory confirmation" 103 is chosen on the menu screen 100 by the operation of the operation section 9, the control section 11 enters a connection mode for connection with the shop host 2. Then, if a commodity (e.g. commodity B of Company A) for inventory confirmation is input by the operation of the operation section 9, the control section 11 enables the display section 8 to display an inventory confirmation screen 260 as shown in FIG. 35. The inventory confirmation screen 260 displays an inventory condition, a next arrival date, etc. The information on the inventory confirmation screen 260 is acquired by the control section 11, which searches the inventory table 34a of inventory DB 34 of shop host 2 using a commodity code of the commodity.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0151] For example, when the request information is a paella recipe request, the CPU 20 searches the recipe table 35a of recipe DB 35 for the paella recipe file name, reads out the paella recipe file information, and transmits this information to the digital multi-functional peripheral 5. Based on the transmitted paella recipe file information, the digital multi-functional peripheral 5 prints out a paella recipe as shown in FIG. 38.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0152] Alternatively, referring to the ingredient table 35b of recipe DB 35, the CPU 20 of shop host 2 may specify the name of a dish that can be made of the ingredients purchased by the customer. The CPU 20 then reads out the recipe file information of the dish name from the recipe table 35a of recipe DB 35, and prints out a recipe through the digital multi-functional peripheral 5.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0156] As regards food commodities, advice (deficient commodity, substitute commodity, bargain commodity, etc.) on purchase can be provided in association with individual recipes.

CLAIMS:

7. An information processing system for processing information in a shop, the system comprising a portable device possessed by a user and a host computer for communication with the portable device, the portable device comprising: request means for requesting information on a predetermined finished article from the host computer in order to make the predetermined finished article; input means for inputting ingredient information put near an ingredient or on an ingredient placed within the shop, when necessary ingredients for making the finished article are purchased; and first memory means for storing the ingredient information input by the input means, and the host computer comprises: memory means for storing a plurality of finished article names and ingredient names of ingredients necessary for making the finished articles; first acquisition means for acquiring the name of an ingredient necessary for making the finished article by searching the second memory means, when a finished article information request is received from the portable device; second acquisition means for acquiring the ingredient information stored in the first memory means on the ingredient purchased to make the finished article; detection means for detecting the name of one or more deficient ingredients for making the finished article by comparing one or more ingredient names acquired from the ingredient information acquired by the second acquisition means and one or more ingredient names acquired by the first acquisition means; and transmission means for transmitting to the portable device the information on the one or more deficient ingredient names detected by the detection means.

8. An information processing system for processing information in a shop, the system comprising a portable device possessed by a user and a host computer for communication with the portable device, the portable device comprising: request means for requesting information on a predetermined dish from the host computer in order to make the dish; input means for inputting ingredient information put near an ingredient or on an ingredient placed within the shop, when necessary ingredients for making the dish are purchased; and first memory means for storing the ingredient information input by the input means, and the host computer comprises: second memory means for storing a plurality of dish names and names of ingredients necessary for making each dish; first acquisition means for acquiring the name of an ingredient necessary for making the dish by searching the second memory means, when a dish information request is received from the portable device; second acquisition means for acquiring the ingredient information stored in the first memory means on the ingredient purchased to make the dish; detection means for detecting the name of one or more deficient ingredients for making the dish by comparing one or more ingredient names obtained from the ingredient information acquired by the second acquisition means and one or more ingredient names acquired by the first acquisition means; and transmission means for transmitting to the portable device the information on the one or more deficient ingredient names detected by the detection means.

14. An information processing system for processing information in a shop, the system comprising a portable device possessed by a user, a host computer for communication with the portable device, and a digital multi-functional peripheral that is variously settable and connected to the host computer, the portable device comprising: input means for inputting ingredient information put near an ingredient or on an ingredient placed within the shop, when necessary ingredients for making a dish are purchased; first memory means for storing the ingredient information input by the input means; and transmission means for transmitting to the host computer total information obtained by totaling the ingredient information stored in the first memory means, when an accounting process for the ingredients purchased in the shop is carried out, and the host computer comprises: second memory means for storing a plurality of dish names, names of ingredients necessary for making each dish, and a recipe of each dish; specifying means for searching the second memory means with one or more ingredient names obtainable from the total information, when total information on the ingredients purchased by the portable device is received, and specifying one or more dish names of a dish preparable from one or more ingredients; search means for searching for recipe information on one or more dishes stored in the memory means, on the basis of one or more dish names specified by the specifying means; and control means for performing a control to print out the recipe information on one or more dishes searched by the search means through the digital multi-functional peripheral.

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L4: Entry 3 of 7

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Nov 21, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020174015 A1

TITLE: Dish-providing assisting system, dish-providing assisting application providing system, dish-providing assisting software and recording medium

Abstract Paragraph:

A dish provider provides a user with dishes, through a dish-providing assisting server, in cooperation with one or a plurality of dish makers. An ingredient information DB stores date information representing dates before that ingredients should be best used. In response to an order for dishes from the user, the dish maker having ingredients for the dishes in stock searches the ingredient information DB for the date information, and sends an order for a set of dishes to the dish maker. An order for those ingredients used for the ordered dishes is sent to a client device of an ingredient seller.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0005] Unexamined Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. H9-274629 discloses a system for making orders for ingredients, specifically for easily realizing orders for ingredients simply by specifying a desired dish menu and the number of people to whom dishes are given. In this system, while a person is to make an order for ingredients, the person's requests can still be considered.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0006] According to the above-described dish-set formation system and ingredient-ordering system, the dish provider, such as a meal-box maker, etc. can form a set of dishes and make orders for ingredients, so that general users can get necessary ingredients for dishes based on their needs.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0010] Another object thereof is to provide a dish-providing assisting system for using up ingredients supplied from ingredient sellers without wasting the ingredients, a dish-providing assisting system, a dish-providing assisting application providing system, software for realizing the above systems, and a computer readable recording medium recording the software.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0015] an ingredient-information database storing ingredient information of the ingredient seller having ingredients in stock, and connected to the dish-providing assisting server and the dish maker terminal device through the network;

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0016] wherein the dish-providing assisting server forms dish-set information representing a set of dishes with reference to the ingredient-information database, provides the dish-set information and a price thereof, receives an order of the set of dishes, selects a dish maker having necessary ingredients for the order of the set of dishes, and sends the order for dishes to the dish maker terminal device.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0018] dish-set formation means for forming dish-set information representing a set of dishes with reference to an ingredient-information database;

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0022] selection means for searching the ingredient-information database for a dish maker having necessary ingredients, and selecting the searched dish maker, based on information representing the necessary ingredients for the dishes whose order is received by the dish-order receiving means; and

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0027] an ingredient-information database which stores ingredient information representing ingredients, in association with a set of dishes using the ingredients, the ingredient seller selling the ingredients and the dish maker having the ingredients in stock,

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0029] dish-set formation means for making the user client device form dish-set information representing a set of dishes with reference to the ingredient-information database;

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0033] selection means for searching the ingredient-information database for a dish maker having necessary ingredients, and selecting the searched dish maker, based on information representing the necessary ingredients for the dishes whose order is received by the dish-order receiving means; and

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0048] The present invention can be adapted in a case where the dish maker 4 is, for example, a meal-box maker of the dish provider 5. For example, the dish provider 5 classifies a plurality of dish makers according to their food type, such as "Italian", "Japanese", "Chinese", and the like. Then, the dish provider 5 can order the plurality of dish makers to make dishes requested by users, in accordance with the type of the requested dishes. The dish provider 5 may be in cooperation with a plurality of ingredient sellers 3, so that it may request the plurality of ingredient sellers 3 for ingredients for one kind of dish (meal box). Further, when requesting one kind of ingredient, the dish provider 5 may select the best ingredient seller 3 from the plurality of ingredient sellers 3, in accordance with an urgency level, the distance from the dish provider 5 to the ingredient seller 3, the price of the ingredient, etc.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0050] The dish-providing assisting server 51 hierarchically comprises a database server for an ingredient-information DB 52, a database server for an order making/receiving information DB 53, and a WWW server. In addition, the dish-providing assisting server 51 may further comprise a dedicated server for realizing the following means, as will be described later.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0051] In response to a request from the client device 11, a dish-providing assisting application (for making an order for a dish(es), for creating a menu, as will be explained in this embodiment) can be used. For example, an operation for making an order for a dish(es) (including an operation for making a dish menu in this embodiment) can be achieved by the WWW browser of the client device 11 on the WWW server. In fact, the dish-providing assisting server device 51 stores the software for controlling a computer to realize the following means, as will be explained later.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0052] FIG. 2 is a diagram for explaining the structure of the dish-providing assisting server device shown in FIG. 1. The dish-providing assisting server device 51 includes a dish-set formation means 54, dish-set providing means 55, dish-ordering means 56, dish-order receiving means 57, dish-maker selection means 58, and dish-order sending means 59. It is necessary that this dish-providing assisting server device 51 further include an ingredient-information DB 52 or be able to access the ingredient-information DB 52.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0053] The ingredient information DB 52 is a database for storing information, including ingredient information 52a, dish-set information 52b, ingredient-seller information 52c, and dish-maker information 52d.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0054] The ingredient information 52a includes information regarding ingredients, growing area of each ingredient, information representing whether agricultural chemicals are used/not used, calories of each ingredient, quantity, arrival date of each ingredient, etc. Any information items included in the ingredient information 52 may be selected in accordance with the usage mode of the system of the present invention and stored in the ingredient information DB 52.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0055] The dish-set information 52b includes information regarding a set (list) of dishes, showing a set of dishes that can be made using predetermined ingredients, in association with ingredient information, or information regarding ingredients necessary for a set of dishes, and is stored in the ingredient information DB 52.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0056] The ingredient-seller information 52c includes information regarding a general ingredient seller selling target ingredients, or information regarding an ingredient seller selling target ingredients and having made a contract with the dish provider 5, and is stored in the ingredient information DB 52 in association with the ingredient information.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0058] Note that ingredient information may be in such a form that the ingredient seller 3 can directly input using the client device 31. In this case, it is necessary to input the prime cost of each ingredient. In this case, in the ingredient information DB 52, it is necessary to store information regarding ingredients purchased at the ingredient seller 5 or consumed ingredients, in association with ingredient information input at the ingredient seller 3. If the prime cost of each ingredient is input from each ingredient seller 3, the cost for a dish corresponding to the input cost can be set. Further, the sale price of the dish, which is made using the ingredients equivalence to the prime cost of ingredient, is set in proportion to its prime cost, so that the user 1 can always have the reasonable dish provided from the dish provider 5.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0059] The dish-set formation means 54 is means for forming a set of dishes, with reference to the ingredient-information DB 52. Examples of the dish-set formation means 54 are a dish-set formation application and its updated form of the application. Likewise a dish-set formation application disclosed in Unexamined Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. H10-177598, according to the above dish-set formation application, those ingredients included in a set of dishes are visualized in their dished up form, and their conditions are easily input, and hence forming a desired set of dishes. Further, the calories and prime costs of those ingredients included in the set of dishes are calculated based on the modeled form of the foods, and the calculated calories and costs may be displayed.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0060] Alternatively, the dish provider 5 may create a menu (customized dishes) only for the dish provider, using the dish-set application, and display the created menu, and hence assisting the user in forming a desired set of dishes based on the displayed menu. For example, there is a method of incorporating the created menu in the template form of the dish-set application. In this case, there may be employed a system for adding the price corresponding to the customized dish, and charging the user 1 for the meal box(es). That is, the dish-set formation application is for displaying the menu for each dish provider created in advance by the dish provider 5, on the client device 11 of the user 1 together with its price. In the case where there is a change (customization) in the menu, the price corresponding to the customized dish is provided.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0061] The dish-set formation means 54 may be means for controlling the client device 11 of the user 1 to form a set of dishes with reference to the ingredient information DB 52. In this case, the dish-set formation means 54 (e.g. the dish-set formation application) in the dish-providing assisting server 51 is activated by the WWW browser as the WWW client through the network 2, thereby forming a set of dishes.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0062] The dish-set providing means 55 is means for providing the client device of the user with dish-set information regarding the predetermined set of dishes and their corresponding price. Not just by the dish-set formation means 54, a set of dishes may be formed based on a recipe acquired through the Internet or the order history of the user 1, as will be described later. The dish-set providing means 55 can include means for attaching the calorie information of the set of dishes formed by the dish-set formation means 54, thereto, and providing the calorie information and the set of dishes in association with each other.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0063] The dish-ordering means 56 is means for controlling the client device 11 of the user 1 to make an order for a predetermined dish(es) based on the set of dishes which are provided by the dish-set providing means 55. The dish-order receiving means 57 is means for receiving the order for the predetermined dish(es) that is made by the dish-ordering means 56. It is preferable that information regarding the predetermined dish whose order is received by the dish-order receiving means 57 be stored in the order making/receiving information DB 53. According to a method of making an order for a dish(es), as is employed by the dish-ordering means 56, a predetermined dish(es) is ordered weekly or monthly based on a weekly menu or monthly menu provided by the dish-ordering means 56. The dish-set providing means 55 and/or dish-ordering means 56 may be incorporated with the above-described dish-set formation application.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0064] One of the features of the present invention is the dish-maker selection means 58. The dish-maker selection means 58 searches the ingredient-information DB 52 for a dish maker having necessary ingredients in stock.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0066] According to another embodiment of the present invention, the dish-set formation means 54 may include means for forming a set of dishes using ingredients that should be used pretty soon, based on "best" date information, representing dates before that ingredients should be used best, which is stored in the ingredient information DB 52. In this case, the ingredient information 52a stored in the ingredient information DB 52 may include information regarding the "best" dates of the ingredients.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0068] When the dish-maker selection means 58 searches the ingredient information DB 52 for a dish maker based on those ingredients necessary for the dish ordered by the dish-order receiving means 57, the dish maker 4 which holds ingredients in stock to be best used soon is given priority. At this time, the ingredient information 52a stored in the ingredient information DB 52 may include information regarding the "best" dates of the ingredients.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0069] Based on the ingredients necessary for the dish ordered, the dish-maker selection means 58 searches the ingredient information DB 52 for a dish maker holding ingredients, which are quite expensive and should be best used quite soon, in stock. In this case, the searched dish maker is given priority as a dish maker to be using ingredients.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0071] To use information representing the "best" dates of ingredients, the dish-set providing means 55 may include means, for referring to the ingredient information DB 52 and for providing information regarding ingredients that should best be used soon based on the referred ingredient information DB 52. By this, the stock of those ingredients that are desired to efficiently be used is decreased, by showing information representing such ingredients in association with their special prices. The dish-set providing means 55 shows a set of dishes using the ingredients that should be used best soon, in association with their lowered prices, thereby enhancing the use of such ingredients.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0072] The ordering of ingredients is performed by ingredient-order sending means 60. This ingredient-order sending means 60 is included in the dish-providing assisting server 51. In this structure, an order for those ingredients necessary for the dish ordered can be sent to the client device 31 through the network 2. Each dish maker 4 receives the supply of a predetermined number of ingredients at predetermined intervals. As the timing for making an order for ingredients, each dish maker 4 can sum up the orders for dishes, calculate the frequency of each ingredient, and estimate a suitable number of ingredients and a suitable timing for ordering the ingredients, so as to receive the supply of the ingredients. In accordance with the number of ingredients that should be used best soon, the ordering of the ingredients may be limited. The ingredients ordered may be delivered to each dish maker 4 through the dish provider 5. Those ingredients can directly be delivered to the dish maker 4. In this case, it is necessary to affix information representing that those ingredients are to directly be delivered to the dish maker 4, to the ingredient-order making information.

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Detail Description Paragraph:

[0079] FIG. 3 is a block diagram for explaining a dish-providing assisting system according to another embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 3, the client device 41 of each dish maker 4 includes the above-described ingredient-order sending means 60. In this structure of the system, an order for those ingredients necessary for a dish ordered by the dish-order sending means 59 may be sent to the client device 31 through the network. Those ingredients may be delivered to the dish maker 42 having made the dish using the ingredients or to the dish provider 5.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0080] FIG. 4 is a block diagram for explaining a dish-providing assisting system according to another embodiment of the present invention. In the dish-providing assisting system of this embodiment, the dish-set providing means 55 may include means for acquiring the set of dishes provided by the dish-set provided through the network, and providing the acquired set of dishes. The set of dishes (stored in a recipe DB 62), provided by the dish-set provider on a recipe-providing Web site 6 stored in the WWW server, may be downloaded in advance or when forming the set of dishes. By this, dish-set data which is stored externally from the dish-providing assisting server 51 can be used.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0083] The dish-providing assisting application service providing system of this embodiment is a system wherein the dish provider 5, such as a meal-box provider, etc., caters for the user with dishes, in cooperation with an ASP service provider 7. The ASP service provider 7 includes an application service providing server (hereinafter referred to as an ASP server) 71 which provides the dish-providing assisting server 51 of the dish provider 5 with a dish-providing assisting application for providing the user 1 with dishes, through the network 2, etc. The ingredient information DB 52 may be included in or connected to the dish-providing assisting server 51 together with the order making/receiving information DB 53. Otherwise, the ingredient information DB 52 and the order making/receiving information DB 53 may be included in the ASP server 71, or may be connected respectively to an ingredient information DB 72 and an order making/receiving information DB 73.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0084] Note that the order making/receiving information DB may be necessary in a system for charging the user for a provided service, as will be described later. It is necessary that the system of this embodiment is in such environment that the ASP service provider 7 can acquire corresponding order making/receiving information when an order is made/received, or that the ASP service provider 7 can always acquire the past record (may be within a predetermined period of time) of the order making/receiving information. For example, the order making/receiving information DB needs to be connected to the ASP server 71 using an arbitrary method, in association with the ingredient information DB.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0085] In this case, the ASP server 71 can refer to the ingredient information DB 52 or 72, or use the dish-set formation application including the ingredient information DB 72, using the WWW browser of the dish-providing assisting server 51 (serving as a client device of the ASP server 71) of the dish provider 5, from the WWW server of the ASP server 71. For example, the ASP server 71 may hierarchically comprise a database server for the ingredient information DB 72, a database server for the order making/receiving information DB 73, and a WWW server. Further, the ASP server 71 may include servers for realizing the above-described means. In fact, the dish-providing assisting server 51 or ASP server 71 adequately stores the software for controlling a computer to realize the above-described means.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0086] The dish-providing assisting server 51 installed in the dish provider 5 is connected to the ASP server 71n through the network 2, and receives the dish-providing assisting application therefrom. The dish-providing assisting server 51 is connected to the client device of each of a plurality of users 1 through the network 2. The dish-providing assisting server 51 is connected also to the client device 31 of each ingredient seller 3 selling ingredients through the network 2. Further, the dish-providing assisting server 51 is connected to the client device 41 of the dish maker 4 to be making a dish that the dish provider 5 provides the user, through the network. The dish provider 5 may be in cooperation with a plurality of ingredient

sellers 3. The dish provider 5 may request the plurality of ingredient sellers 3 for one kind of dish (one kind of meal box). Further, when requesting one kind of ingredient, the dish provider 5 may select the best ingredient seller 3 from the plurality of ingredient sellers 3, in accordance with an urgency level, the distance from the dish provider 5 to the ingredient seller 3, the price of the ingredient, etc.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0087] The dish-providing assisting server 51 may hierarchically comprise a database server for the ingredient-information DB 52, a database server for the order making/receiving information DB 53, and a WWW server. Further, the dish-providing assisting server 51 may also include a server for realizing the above-described means in cooperation with the ASP server 71. The dish-set formation application can be operated by the WWW browser of the client device on the WWW server, or an order making operation can be realized using the dish-set formation application.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0090] The dish-providing assisting server 51 lets the client device 11 of the user 1 make an order for a dish(es) based on a formed set of dishes, and receives the order for the dish(es). In this case, the set (list) of dishes may be formed by any of the dish provider 5, the user 1, the recipe provider, as described above. The dish-providing assisting server 51 calculates the quantity of ingredients necessary for the dish, and sends an order for the calculated quantity of the ingredients to the client device 31 through the network 2. In this case, the dish-providing assisting server 51 may send an order for the ingredients necessary for a set of dishes, at the time an order for the set of dishes is received. Otherwise, the dish-providing assisting server 51 may understand the consumption of each ingredient based on the past record of the orders, so as to estimate and make an order for the future needs. The client device 31 having received an order for the ingredients delivers the ingredients to the dish provider 5 or dish maker 4.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0096] The ASP server 71 can refer to the ingredient information DB 52 or 72, or use the dish-set formation application including the ingredient information DB 72, using the WWW browser of the dish-providing assisting server 51 (serving as a client device of the ASP server 71) of the dish provider 5.sub.1, 5.sub.2 (sometimes represented as a dish provider 5'), . . . , from the WWW server of the ASP server 71. The ASP server 71 may hierarchically comprise a database server for the ingredient information DB 72, a database server for the order making-receiving information DB 73, and the above-described WWW server. In addition to this, the ASP server 71 may include a server for realizing the above-described means. In fact, the dish-providing assisting server 51 or the ASP server 71 adequately stores software for controlling a computer to realize the above means.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0100] In this case, the dish-providing assisting server 51 may send an order for the ingredients necessary for a set of dishes, at the time an order for the set of dishes is received. Otherwise, the dish-providing assisting server 51 may acquire the consumption of each ingredient based on the past record of the orders, so as to estimate and make an order for the future needs. The client device 31 having received an order for the ingredients delivers the ingredients to the dish provider 5'.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0105] Further, in the dish-set formation application service providing system of this embodiment, the same service(s) is(are) provided to the user as that given by the dish-providing assisting system of the above-described embodiments. In the structure of the dish-set formation application service providing system of this embodiment, a dish provider 5" does not include the dish-providing assisting server, the ingredient information DB and the order making/receiving information DB, unlike the above. Instead of these, the dish provider 5" includes a dish-providing assisting server (as a server from the perspective of the user 1) serving as a client device 51' of the dish provider. That is, the dish provider 5" requests the ASP service provider 7 to provide a service to the user 1, and receives only orders for dishes.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0106] According to the system of this embodiment, the ASP server 71 directly forms a set of dishes, makes orders for dishes (ingredients), and selects a suitable dish maker 4. In this

structure, the dish provider 5" receives only the orders for dishes from the ASP server 71. The formation of the menu only for the dish provider 5", the specification of the ingredient seller 3, dish maker 4, etc., and any other operations to be achieved beforehand are not limited to the above.

CLAIMS:

1. A dish-providing assisting system for assisting a dish provider through a network, said system comprising: a dish-providing assisting server connected to at least one terminal device through said network; an ingredient seller terminal device received an ingredient order from said dish-providing assisting server through said network; a dish maker terminal device received a dish order from said dish-providing assisting server through said network; an ingredient-information database storing ingredient information of said ingredient seller having ingredients in stock, and connected to said dish-providing assisting server and said dish maker terminal device through said network; wherein said dish-providing assisting server forms dish-set information representing a set of dishes with reference to said ingredient-information database, provides said dish-set information and a price of said set of dishes, receives an order of said set of dishes, selects a dish maker having necessary ingredients for said order of said set of dishes, and sends said order for dishes to said dish maker terminal device.
2. The dish-providing assisting system according to claim 1 wherein said ingredient-information database has date information regarding dates before that said ingredients should be best used, and wherein said dish-providing assisting server forms said dish-set information representing said set of dishes using ingredients which should be best used soon based on said date information.
3. The dish-providing assisting system according to claim 2 wherein said dish-providing assisting server selects said dish maker having an expensive ingredient in stock that should be best used soon, with reference to said ingredient-information database.
11. A dish-providing assisting server for assisting a dish provider in providing at least one user with a dish, said assisting server comprising: dish-set formation means for forming dish-set information representing a set of dishes with reference to an ingredient-information database; dish-set providing means for providing said user with said dish-set information regarding said set of dishes and a price saidreof; dish-ordering means for controlling said user to make an order for dishes, based on said dish-set information provided by said dish-set providing means; dish-order receiving means for receiving said order made under control of said dish-ordering means; selection means for searching said ingredient-information database for a dish maker having necessary ingredients, and selecting said searched dish maker, based on information representing said necessary ingredients for said dishes whose order is received by said dish-order receiving means; and dish-order sending means for sending an order for dishes to said dish maker selected by said selection means.
12. The dish-providing assisting server according to claim 11 wherein said ingredient-information database stores ingredient information representing ingredients of an ingredient seller and said dish maker having said ingredients in stock.
13. The dish-providing assisting server according to claim 12 wherein said ingredient-information database has date information regarding dates before that said ingredients should be best used, and wherein said dish-providing assisting server forms said dish-set information representing said set of dishes using ingredients which should be best used soon based on said date information.
16. The dish-providing assisting server according to claim 11 wherein said dish-providing assisting server includes ingredient-order sending means for sending an order for ingredients of said set of dishes an ingredient seller through a network.
18. The dish-providing assisting server according to claim 11 wherein said ingredient-information database includes date information representing dates before that said ingredients should be best used; and said selection means selects, as a dish maker having said ingredients in stock, primarily a dish maker having an expensive ingredient in stock that should be best used soon, with reference to said ingredient-information database, based on ingredients necessary for said dishes whose order is received by said dish-order receiving means.

21. The dish-providing assisting server according to claim 11 wherein said ingredient information stored in said ingredient-information database includes date information representing dates before that said ingredients should be best used; and said dish-set providing means provides said user with dish-set information representing a set of dishes using said ingredient that should be best used soon, in association with a lowered price than its previous price.

22. A dish-providing assisting-application providing system, having an application providing server for sending, through a network, said system comprising: a dish-providing assisting application based on which a dish provider provides at least one user with a set of dishes, to a dish-providing assisting server included in each of one or a plurality of dish providers, which is connected to a user client device of said at least one user through a network; an ingredient-order receiving client device of an ingredient seller selling ingredients through a network, and also to a dish-order receiving client device of a dish maker for making a dish to be provided to said at least one user; an ingredient-information database which stores ingredient information representing ingredients, in association with a set of dishes using said ingredients, said ingredient seller selling said ingredients and said dish maker having said ingredients in stock, wherein said application providing server further comprises: dish-set formation means for making said user client device form dish-set information representing a set of dishes with reference to said ingredient-information database; dish-set providing means for providing said user client device with said dish-set information regarding said set of dishes and a price saidreof; dish-ordering means for controlling said user client device to make an order for dishes, based on said dish-set information provided by said dish-set providing means; dish-order receiving means for receiving said order made under control of said dish-ordering means; selection means for searching said ingredient-information database for a dish maker having necessary ingredients, and selecting said searched dish maker, based on information representing said necessary ingredients for said dishes whose order is received by said dish-order receiving means; and dish-order sending means for sending an order for dishes to said dish-order receiving client device of said dish maker selected by said selection means.

23. The dish-providing assisting-application providing system according to claim 22, wherein: said ingredient information stored in said ingredient-information database includes date information representing dates before that said ingredients should be best used; and said selection means selects, as a dish maker having said ingredients in stock, primarily a dish maker having an ingredient in stock that should be best used soon, with reference to said ingredient-information database, based on ingredients necessary for said dishes whose order is received by said dish-order receiving means.

24. The dish-providing assisting-application providing system according to claim 22, wherein: said ingredient information stored in said ingredient-information database includes date information representing dates before that said ingredients should be best used; and said selection means selects, as a dish maker having said ingredients in stock, primarily a dish maker having an expensive ingredient in stock that should be best used soon, with reference to said ingredient-information database, based on ingredients necessary for said dishes whose order is received by said dish-order receiving means.

27. The dish-providing assisting application providing system according to claim 22, wherein: said ingredient information stored in said ingredient-information database includes date information representing dates before that said ingredients should be best used; and said dish-set providing means includes means for providing ingredient information representing an ingredient that should primarily be used, based on said date information stored in said ingredient-information database.

28. The dish-providing assisting-application providing system according to claim 22, wherein: said ingredient information stored in said ingredient-information database includes date information representing dates before that said ingredients should be best used; and said dish-set providing means provides said user client device with dish-set information representing a set of dishes using said ingredient that should be best used soon, in association with a lowered price than its previous price.

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L6: Entry 4 of 6

File: USPT

Nov 3, 1998

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5832446 A

TITLE: Interactive database method and system for food and beverage preparation

Abstract Text (1):

The present invention features a computerized, electronic cooking encyclopedia running on Sun SPARC stations. The computerized system and method provide a search tool for accessing information about a worldwide variety of foods and beverages. The program of the invention allows for searching recipes by culture, menu category, preparation method and ingredients. Information is provided about the degree of complexity, necessary equipment, cooking tips, any caveats proffered and restaurants that actually serve a given dish (along with their menus). The software includes accessing an extensive database having color illustrations. When a CD ROM video or audio library is accessed, animation and/or audio viewing and listening are made possible.

Brief Summary Text (7):

A common problem in preparing meals utilizing exotic ingredients, however, is the fact that seasonal contingencies may still influence the decision to prepare particular foods or meals. Even a seasoned cook can often be perplexed when confronted with having to make a substitution of a similar dish or a different ingredient in a dish. As is evidenced, the textbook approach to teaching food preparation can be severely limited.

Brief Summary Text (8):

Textbooks do not always provide enough information when ingredients or proportions have to be changed to accommodate larger or smaller portions, a greater or fewer number of servings, or slightly different (i.e., altered) preparations.

Brief Summary Text (17):

The invention provides visual and audio on-screen aids, whereby each of the steps of a preparation can be visually observed, either by still views or by animated video with sound. The program of the invention allows for split-screen viewing, so that one can observe different alternatives during the processing of any particular step of the preparation. The user is able to scroll through various sections of on-screen menus. The views can be supplied with voice instruction, as well as the sounds of cooking.

Brief Summary Text (21):

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a computerized, electronic cooking encyclopedia running on Sun SPARC stations. The computerized system and method provide a search tool for accessing information about, literally, a worldwide variety of foods and beverages. The program of the invention allows for searching recipes by culture, menu category, preparation method and ingredients. Information is provided about the degree of complexity, necessary equipment, cooking tips, any caveats proffered and restaurants that actually serve a given dish (along with their menus). The software includes accessing an extensive database having color illustrations. When a CD ROM video or audio library is accessed, animation and/or audio viewing and listening are made possible by the provision of verbal instructions and the sounds involved in cooking. The software provides a hierarchical system whereby the user can branch through multiple paths to access cultural information, menu category, ingredients and preparation methods. Branching also allows for unit translation of each ingredient, viz., different proportions, substitutions, nutritional information, etc. Hypertext functions are provided for defining textual and pictorial words and concepts. Troubleshooting information is provided, with images and text to explain any potential difficulties in the preparation of the dish. The hierarchical system of the invention allows the computer screen viewer to branch within the screen window by clicking a mouse. Dishes can be searched according to their degree of complexity, country of origin, food preparation costs, garnishments and special or

particular ingredients, as well as complementary dish items. The user can scroll through menus and access different screens, windows and data paths. In summary, the invention provides the user with information on food preparation in an easily accessible manner, information that, heretofore, has only been accessible after many hours of research, utilizing voluminous texts and manifold hours of expert instruction.

Drawing Description Text (6):

FIG. 12 is a view of the computer screen in which actual menus are illustrated for the dish prepared during the procedures outlined in FIGS. 7 through 11;

Drawing Description Text (7):

FIG. 13 is a view of the computer screen depicting photos or videos of various restaurants serving the dish or menus as illustrated in FIGS. 7 through 12; and

Detailed Description Text (3):

Now referring to FIG. 1a, a schematic view of the computerized, interactive cooking system 10 of this invention is shown. The system 10 comprises a plurality of Sun SPARC stations 11, each of which is interlinked by an EtherNet communication link. One of the stations 11 can serve in the capacity of a file server 15 for the other three stations 11 that are shown. Each of the stations 11 has been programmed to provide for the access and display of a wide variety of cooking information. The user of a typical station 11, as illustrated by the dotted lines 20, can command the station 11 by means of the keyboard 12 or by a mouse 14. The station 11 can access data and information from the file server 15 and/or from a CD ROM video and/or audio library 16, where video and/or audio presentations are available on CD disc. The file server 15 contains more than 16,000 image files. All of the information obtained from the file server 15 or CD ROM video and/or audio library 16 can be displayed upon the display monitor 17 of each station and audibly perceived from attached speakers 18. The speakers can convey verbal instructions and/or the sounds of cooking and/or even appropriate music.

Detailed Description Text (4):

The monitor 17 will often display, in accordance with the program of the invention, a number of menu or scroll bars, icons, flags, buttons or other mouse-friendly information-accessing blocks. These accessing blocks can be clicked by the mouse 14 for easy acquisition of further information. The screen of the display monitor 17 is often split, making it easier to access and understand the information. For example, information about various dishes is displayed on one side of the screen, while photographs corresponding to the described dishes are displayed on the other side thereof.

Detailed Description Text (7):

Referring to FIG. 1, a typical display screen 25 is shown at the beginning of the search procedure for a particular dish to be prepared. The screen 25 is split into two halves 27 and 29. Each half 27 and 29 is marked by grids 27a and bordered on the left-hand side by scroll bars 26 and 28, respectively. A horizontal bar 30 at the top of the screen 25 contains buttons that can be activated by the click of mouse 14 (FIG. 1A). The buttons on the left-hand side of the horizontal bar 30 select items according to culture 21, preparation method 22, menu category 23 and ingredients 24. Activation of the culture button 21 (by clicking it with the mouse 14), for example, will cause the left-hand side 27 of the screen 25 to display the different national flags of various nationalities (such as French, Indian, Chinese, American, etc.), as illustrated in FIG. 2. Activating a flag will select the culture of the food to be prepared.

Detailed Description Text (11):

Similarly, the activation of the "menu category" button 23 will display the separate parts of a menu, such as entrees, salads, soups, desserts, etc. Clicking of the entree window on the left-hand side 27 of FIG. 5 will automatically display the baked entrees for the Greek culture originally chosen. Only three baked Greek entrees will now be illustrated on the right-hand side 29 of the screen, as depicted in FIG. 5.

Detailed Description Text (12):

The search now progresses to the "ingredients" portion of the program. Activating one of the ingredient flags (such as "vegetables") will display "moussaka", a Greek baked entree that contains vegetables on the right-hand side of the screen. The program can continue to trim the options if, for example, a particular vegetable is desired, such as eggplant. This part of the

program is most useful, since a cook is often limited by ingredients that are seasonally available, or which may be on hand and need to be consumed while still fresh.

Detailed Description Text (13):

The program of the invention does not contain a default path, as will be hereinafter explained with reference to FIG. 14. Therefore, one can start a search anywhere in the program. That is, a cook can begin the search for a menu dish by first activating the "ingredients" button 24.

Detailed Description Text (14):

The user can terminate the search mode by clicking a particular dish that is displayed on the right-hand side of the screen. The program will now enter the "browse" mode. The browse screen is illustrated in FIG. 6. This screen displays a picture 45 of the dish selected, its national flag 46, as well as information relating to portion size, yield, preparation time, temperature and recipe. The cook can select the measuring system for the recipe, e.g., metric weight, metric volume, English weight or English volume. Ingredients can also be represented by percentage. Each ingredient of a recipe is represented individually. One ingredient can be chosen by metric weight, while another can be represented by English volume. Such flexibility is appreciated when ingredients arrive from foreign countries and contain weights or volumes in foreign units.

Detailed Description Text (16):

At the lower left-hand side of the screen is a window containing respective buttons 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40, labelled, respectively, "preparation", "equipment", "comments", "menus" and "properties".

Detailed Description Text (22):

Selection of the "menus" button 39 will display a number of restaurant menus serving a particular dish, as shown in FIG. 12. The full menu of that restaurant can be made larger by clicking on the menu 39a in question.

Detailed Description Text (24):

Other information not shown in the FIGURES can be activated from a horizontal bar 60 disposed at the bottom of the screen, illustrated in FIG. 1. Other information which can be accessed from horizontal bar 60, as shown, includes data pertaining to nutritional content, button 61; searching according to complexity and/or length of time, button 62; "Boolean OR" searches for recipes based on choices (such as broccoli "OR" pine nuts), button 63; matching information about complementary dishes, wines and garnishes, button 64; food requisition for obtaining information on a particular dish by the amount of food needed for making a given number of servings, button 65; downsizing or upsizing the portion size and conversion to percentages, conversion button 66; and conversion of the text to a foreign language, button 67. Referring to FIG. 14, a flow diagram of a portion of the program that describes the accessing of the screens depicted in the foregoing discussion is illustrated. An explanation of the unique window structure is given for a select number of the screens (enough to make obvious the accessing of other information already mentioned). The database structure is accessed by the Graphical User Interface (GUI), using Xwindows programming. The circled items are record types, with labelled arrows denoting the relationships recorded in a hashed table. The "menu"-and-"property" segment 70 of the program relates to that portion of the invention pertaining to the browse methodology.

Detailed Description Text (26):

The Menu record type corresponds to the Menu button on the Browse screen. It has the following fields: of, which points to Property; Part, which refers to the portion of the menu depicted by the particular picture file; Text, which describes the picture; Picture, a six-digit numerical field corresponding to the slide and file locations; and Meal, which refers to the meal (breakfast, lunch, dinner) for which this particular menu is used.

Detailed Description Text (41):

Servings: the number of servings this recipe makes;

Detailed Description Text (48):

Linked to "steps" are Step.sub.-- eqp and Equipment, which store information about equipment used in the recipe. Also in this portion of the database diagram is the record type Formula, which stores the Item's recipe. This record type is linked to Vvsp.sub.-- ing and makes it

possible to search for Items by their ingredients. "Notes" corresponds to the Comments button 38 displayed on the recipe window of the GUI; "comments" is troubleshooting information related to steps. For example, clicking on Comments and then Present in the recipe window gives presentation ideas. Clicking on Comments and then Mix displays pictures and text of things that can go wrong during the mixing step.

Detailed Description Text (49):

"Steps" has the following fields: Step.sub.-- key, a combined type field comprising a pointer to Item, as well as a unique name; Text, which contains textual information about the Step; and sequence, a number used by the Recipe Window program to list the steps in sequence.

Detailed Description Text (50):

"Substeps" has these fields: Substep.sub.-- key, a combined type field comprising a pointer to Steps and a unique name; Text, which contains textual information about the substep; Picture, which contains the address of the image file as well as the slide name; and Substep.sub.-- num, a sequencing field which the Recipe Window program uses to list the substeps in sequence.

Detailed Description Text (51):

The record type Step.sub.-- eqp holds information about which equipment is used for the recipe. Clicking on the Equipment button displayed on the lower left-hand side of the recipe window accesses information stored in this field. Fields in Step.sub.-- eqp are: one.sub.-- of, a pointer to Equipment; used.sub.-- for, a pointer to the Steps record type; and Text, textual information about how the piece of equipment is used.

Detailed Description Text (52):

The record type Formula holds the recipe. Its fields are: to.sub.-- make, a pointer to Item; contains, a pointer to Vvsp.sub.-- ing; Amount, a numerical field with length 7 and precision 2; and Step.sub.-- num, a sequencing number with four digits, the first two of which reference the step number and the second two referencing the substep number. This makes it possible to highlight ingredients as the database user clicks on a substep.

Detailed Description Text (54):

Segment 110 of the database program contains information about ingredients. It is accessed by clicking on the ingredients button 24 of the search window, which produces the query of the Gen.sub.-- ings record type. The ingredient record types are organized and linked to each other hierarchically, making it possible to search for recipes by first selecting a general ingredient category (such as Nuts) and, finding that this yields hundreds or thousands of hits, then becoming more specific (such as Almonds).

Detailed Description Text (59):

"Vvsp.sub.-- ing" is the fourth hierarchical step in increasing ingredient specificity. In addition to the usual information, it also contains nutrient data. Fields of Vvsp.sub.-- ing are: Name, Example, Text and Picture (described above); Density, which is the conversion factor used to display recipes in English and Metric systems, both by volume and by weight; Calorie.sub.-- density, which is the calories of the ingredient per gram, Vit.sub.-- A.sub.-- density (same); Water.sub.-- percent; Compl.sub.-- carb.sub.-- perc; Total.sub.-- carp.sub.-- perc; Sat.sub.-- fat; Unsat.sub.-- fat; Calcium; Iron; Potassium; Thiamine; Riboflavin; and Vit.sub.-- C.

CLAIMS:

1. A hierarchical, computerized cooking instruction system whereby a user can branch through multiple paths to access cultural information, menu category, ingredients and cooking methods entailed and involved in the preparation of a variety of dishes to be prepared, comprising:

processing means having a hierarchical-type program for accessing cooking information from at least one memory library;

a display operatively connected to said processing means, having a screen for displaying cooking information accessed by said processing means;

input means operatively connected to said processing means for instructing said processing means regarding types of cooking information to be accessed; and

said at least one memory library comprising a video library memory means connected to said processing means, said video library memory means being accessible by said processing means to supply cooking information in animated form.

4. A hierarchical, computerized cooking instruction system whereby a user can branch through multiple paths to access cultural information, menu category, ingredients and cooking methods entailed and involved in the preparation of a variety of dishes to be prepared, comprising:

processing means having a hierarchical-type program for accessing cooking information from at least one memory library;

a display operatively connected to said processing means, having a screen for displaying cooking information accessed by said processing means;

at least one speaker operatively connected to said processing means for providing audio perception of cooking information accessed by said processing means;

input means operatively connected to said processing means for instructing said processing means regarding types of cooking information to be accessed; and

said at least one memory library comprising an audio library memory means connected to said processing means, said audio library memory means being accessible by said processing means to supply cooking information in audio form.

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File: USPT

Nov 3, 1998

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5832446 A

TITLE: Interactive database method and system for food and beverage preparation

Abstract Text (1):

The present invention features a computerized, electronic cooking encyclopedia running on Sun SPARC stations. The computerized system and method provide a search tool for accessing information about a worldwide variety of foods and beverages. The program of the invention allows for searching recipes by culture, menu category, preparation method and ingredients. Information is provided about the degree of complexity, necessary equipment, cooking tips, any caveats proffered and restaurants that actually serve a given dish (along with their menus). The software includes accessing an extensive database having color illustrations. When a CD ROM video or audio library is accessed, animation and/or audio viewing and listening are made possible.

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A common problem in preparing meals utilizing exotic ingredients, however, is the fact that seasonal contingencies may still influence the decision to prepare particular foods or meals. Even a seasoned cook can often be perplexed when confronted with having to make a substitution of a similar dish or a different ingredient in a dish. As is evidenced, the textbook approach to teaching food preparation can be severely limited.

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Textbooks do not always provide enough information when ingredients or proportions have to be changed to accommodate larger or smaller portions, a greater or fewer number of servings, or slightly different (i.e., altered) preparations.

Brief Summary Text (17):

The invention provides visual and audio on-screen aids, whereby each of the steps of a preparation can be visually observed, either by still views or by animated video with sound. The program of the invention allows for split-screen viewing, so that one can observe different alternatives during the processing of any particular step of the preparation. The user is able to scroll through various sections of on-screen menus. The views can be supplied with voice instruction, as well as the sounds of cooking.

Brief Summary Text (21):

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a computerized, electronic cooking encyclopedia running on Sun SPARC stations. The computerized system and method provide a search tool for accessing information about, literally, a worldwide variety of foods and beverages. The program of the invention allows for searching recipes by culture, menu category, preparation method and ingredients. Information is provided about the degree of complexity, necessary equipment, cooking tips, any caveats proffered and restaurants that actually serve a given dish (along with their menus). The software includes accessing an extensive database having color illustrations. When a CD ROM video or audio library is accessed, animation and/or audio viewing and listening are made possible by the provision of verbal instructions and the sounds involved in cooking. The software provides a hierarchical system whereby the user can branch through multiple paths to access cultural information, menu category, ingredients and preparation methods. Branching also allows for unit translation of each ingredient, viz., different proportions, substitutions, nutritional information, etc. Hypertext functions are provided for defining textual and pictorial words and concepts. Troubleshooting information is provided, with images and text to explain any potential difficulties in the preparation of the dish. The hierarchical system of the invention allows the computer screen viewer to branch within the screen window by clicking a mouse. Dishes can be searched according to their degree of complexity, country of origin, food preparation costs, garnishments and special or

particular ingredients, as well as complementary dish items. The user can scroll through menus and access different screens, windows and data paths. In summary, the invention provides the user with information on food preparation in an easily accessible manner, information that, heretofore, has only been accessible after many hours of research, utilizing voluminous texts and manifold hours of expert instruction.

Drawing Description Text (6):

FIG. 12 is a view of the computer screen in which actual menus are illustrated for the dish prepared during the procedures outlined in FIGS. 7 through 11;

Drawing Description Text (7):

FIG. 13 is a view of the computer screen depicting photos or videos of various restaurants serving the dish or menus as illustrated in FIGS. 7 through 12; and

Detailed Description Text (4):

The monitor 17 will often display, in accordance with the program of the invention, a number of menu or scroll bars, icons, flags, buttons or other mouse-friendly information-accessing blocks. These accessing blocks can be clicked by the mouse 14 for easy acquisition of further information. The screen of the display monitor 17 is often split, making it easier to access and understand the information. For example, information about various dishes is displayed on one side of the screen, while photographs corresponding to the described dishes are displayed on the other side thereof.

Detailed Description Text (7):

Referring to FIG. 1, a typical display screen 25 is shown at the beginning of the search procedure for a particular dish to be prepared. The screen 25 is split into two halves 27 and 29. Each half 27 and 29 is marked by grids 27a and bordered on the left-hand side by scroll bars 26 and 28, respectively. A horizontal bar 30 at the top of the screen 25 contains buttons that can be activated by the click of mouse 14 (FIG. 1A). The buttons on the left-hand side of the horizontal bar 30 select items according to culture 21, preparation method 22, menu category 23 and ingredients 24. Activation of the culture button 21 (by clicking it with the mouse 14), for example, will cause the left-hand side 27 of the screen 25 to display the different national flags of various nationalities (such as French, Indian, Chinese, American, etc.), as illustrated in FIG. 2. Activating a flag will select the culture of the food to be prepared.

Detailed Description Text (11):

Similarly, the activation of the "menu category" button 23 will display the separate parts of a menu, such as entrees, salads, soups, desserts, etc. Clicking of the entree window on the left-hand side 27 of FIG. 5 will automatically display the baked entrees for the Greek culture originally chosen. Only three baked Greek entrees will now be illustrated on the right-hand side 29 of the screen, as depicted in FIG. 5.

Detailed Description Text (13):

The program of the invention does not contain a default path, as will be hereinafter explained with reference to FIG. 14. Therefore, one can start a search anywhere in the program. That is, a cook can begin the search for a menu dish by first activating the "ingredients" button 24.

Detailed Description Text (14):

The user can terminate the search mode by clicking a particular dish that is displayed on the right-hand side of the screen. The program will now enter the "browse" mode. The browse screen is illustrated in FIG. 6. This screen displays a picture 45 of the dish selected, its national flag 46, as well as information relating to portion size, yield, preparation time, temperature and recipe. The cook can select the measuring system for the recipe, e.g., metric weight, metric volume, English weight or English volume. Ingredients can also be represented by percentage. Each ingredient of a recipe is represented individually. One ingredient can be chosen by metric weight, while another can be represented by English volume. Such flexibility is appreciated when ingredients arrive from foreign countries and contain weights or volumes in foreign units.

Detailed Description Text (16):

At the lower left-hand side of the screen is a window containing respective buttons 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40, labelled, respectively, "preparation", "equipment", "comments", "menus" and

"properties".

Detailed Description Text (22):

Selection of the "menus" button 39 will display a number of restaurant menus serving a particular dish, as shown in FIG. 12. The full menu of that restaurant can be made larger by clicking on the menu 39a in question.

Detailed Description Text (24):

Other information not shown in the FIGURES can be activated from a horizontal bar 60 disposed at the bottom of the screen, illustrated in FIG. 1. Other information which can be accessed from horizontal bar 60, as shown, includes data pertaining to nutritional content, button 61; searching according to complexity and/or length of time, button 62; "Boolean OR" searches for recipes based on choices (such as broccoli "OR" pine nuts), button 63; matching information about complementary dishes, wines and garnishes, button 64; food requisition for obtaining information on a particular dish by the amount of food needed for making a given number of servings, button 65; downsizing or upsizing the portion size and conversion to percentages, conversion button 66; and conversion of the text to a foreign language, button 67. Referring to FIG. 14, a flow diagram of a portion of the program that describes the accessing of the screens depicted in the foregoing discussion is illustrated. An explanation of the unique window structure is given for a select number of the screens (enough to make obvious the accessing of other information already mentioned). The database structure is accessed by the Graphical User Interface (GUI), using Xwindows programming. The circled items are record types, with labelled arrows denoting the relationships recorded in a hashed table. The "menu"-and-"property" segment 70 of the program relates to that portion of the invention pertaining to the browse methodology.

Detailed Description Text (26):

The Menu record type corresponds to the Menu button on the Browse screen. It has the following fields: of, which points to Property; Part, which refers to the portion of the menu depicted by the particular picture file; Text, which describes the picture; Picture, a six-digit numerical field corresponding to the slide and file locations; and Meal, which refers to the meal (breakfast, lunch, dinner) for which this particular menu is used.

Detailed Description Text (41):

Servings: the number of servings this recipe makes;

Detailed Description Text (48):

Linked to "steps" are Step.sub.-- eqp and Equipment, which store information about equipment used in the recipe. Also in this portion of the database diagram is the record type Formula, which stores the Item's recipe. This record type is linked to Vvsp.sub.-- ing and makes it possible to search for Items by their ingredients. "Notes" corresponds to the Comments button 38 displayed on the recipe window of the GUI; "comments" is troubleshooting information related to steps. For example, clicking on Comments and then Present in the recipe window gives presentation ideas. Clicking on Comments and then Mix displays pictures and text of things that can go wrong during the mixing step.

Detailed Description Text (49):

"Steps" has the following fields: Step.sub.-- key, a combined type field comprising a pointer to Item, as well as a unique name; Text, which contains textual information about the Step; and sequence, a number used by the Recipe Window program to list the steps in sequence.

Detailed Description Text (50):

"Substeps" has these fields: Substep.sub.-- key, a combined type field comprising a pointer to Steps and a unique name; Text, which contains textual information about the substep; Picture, which contains the address of the image file as well as the slide name; and Substep.sub.-- num, a sequencing field which the Recipe Window program uses to list the substeps in sequence.

Detailed Description Text (51):

The record type Step.sub.-- eqp holds information about which equipment is used for the recipe. Clicking on the Equipment button displayed on the lower left-hand side of the recipe window accesses information stored in this field. Fields in Step.sub.-- eqp are: one.sub.-- of, a pointer to Equipment; used.sub.-- for, a pointer to the Steps record type; and Text, textual information about how the piece of equipment is used.

Detailed Description Text (52):

The record type Formula holds the recipe. Its fields are: to.sub.-- make, a pointer to Item; contains, a pointer to Vvsp.sub.-- ing; Amount, a numerical field with length 7 and precision 2; and Step.sub.-- num, a sequencing number with four digits, the first two of which reference the step number and the second two referencing the substep number. This makes it possible to highlight ingredients as the database user clicks on a substep.

Detailed Description Text (54):

Segment 110 of the database program contains information about ingredients. It is accessed by clicking on the ingredients button 24 of the search window, which produces the query of the Gen.sub.-- ings record type. The ingredient record types are organized and linked to each other hierarchically, making it possible to search for recipes by first selecting a general ingredient category (such as Nuts) and, finding that this yields hundreds or thousands of hits, then becoming more specific (such as Almonds).

Detailed Description Text (59):

"Vvsp.sub.-- ing" is the fourth hierarchical step in increasing ingredient specificity. In addition to the usual information, it also contains nutrient data. Fields of Vvsp.sub.-- ing are: Name, Example, Text and Picture (described above); Density, which is the conversion factor used to display recipes in English and Metric systems, both by volume and by weight; Calorie.sub.-- density, which is the calories of the ingredient per gram, Vit.sub.-- A.sub.-- density (same); Water.sub.-- percent; Compl.sub.-- carb.sub.-- perc; Total.sub.-- carp.sub.-- perc; Sat.sub.-- fat; Unsat.sub.-- fat; Calcium; Iron; Potassium; Thiamine; Riboflavin; and Vit.sub.-- C.

CLAIMS:

1. A hierarchical, computerized cooking instruction system whereby a user can branch through multiple paths to access cultural information, menu category, ingredients and cooking methods entailed and involved in the preparation of a variety of dishes to be prepared, comprising:

processing means having a hierarchical-type program for accessing cooking information from at least one memory library;

a display operatively connected to said processing means, having a screen for displaying cooking information accessed by said processing means;

input means operatively connected to said processing means for instructing said processing means regarding types of cooking information to be accessed; and

said at least one memory library comprising a video library memory means connected to said processing means, said video library memory means being accessible by said processing means to supply cooking information in animated form.

4. A hierarchical, computerized cooking instruction system whereby a user can branch through multiple paths to access cultural information, menu category, ingredients and cooking methods entailed and involved in the preparation of a variety of dishes to be prepared, comprising:

processing means having a hierarchical-type program for accessing cooking information from at least one memory library;

a display operatively connected to said processing means, having a screen for displaying cooking information accessed by said processing means;

at least one speaker operatively connected to said processing means for providing audio perception of cooking information accessed by said processing means;

input means operatively connected to said processing means for instructing said processing means regarding types of cooking information to be accessed; and

said at least one memory library comprising an audio library memory means connected to said processing means, said audio library memory means being accessible by said processing means to

supply cooking information in audio form.

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L4: Entry 6 of 7

File: USPT

Mar 28, 1989

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 4816635 A

TITLE: Microwave oven with remote controller

Brief Summary Text (6):

The microwave oven of the above application, however, only reads and supplies particular cooking program data to the oven main body. It is not provided with functions often demanded by users, that is, the function of reading information such as primary ingredients and time required for cooking (the sum of heating time and average time for preliminary arrangement for cooking) for each of various dishes, and the function of supplying the oven main body with the information selected according to the material and time actually available for cooking. In other words, the oven disclosed in the above application cannot play any role in planning a menu.

Brief Summary Text (8):

It is an object of the present invention to provide a microwave oven having a remote controller that stores information on a plurality of dishes, input from a bar code reader, and which selects a particular data according to the requirements of the user, helping the user with menu planning.

Brief Summary Text (9):

More specifically, the object of this invention is to provide a microwave oven controlled by a separate portable remote controller which reads dish data such as primary ingredients and cooking time requirement (the sum of heating time and average time for pre-arrangement) from a bar code and outputs the data to display means as required by the user, thus allowing the electronic oven to participate in menu planning and to handle necessary data very easily.

Brief Summary Text (12):

Since any data stored can be displayed by operation of the control means for selection of necessary data from the plurality of sets of multiple data read from the bar code reading means and stored in the memory means, the microwave oven of the present invention helps the user plan a menu.

Detailed Description Text (7):

First, the LOAD key switch (9b) is operated (depressed) (Step 100). This operation sets the micro computer (9a) in the bar code symbol reading mode. If it is the first input operation (Step 101), a bar code symbol (15) is traced on a cook book (14) which introduces cooking procedures, ingredients and other information of dishes (Step 102). Each bar code symbol comprises four blocks P1 through P4: the block P1 for program-related data, P2 following P1 for the dish name, P3 following P2 for ingredients and P4 for time required for cooking the dish (the sum of heating time and average time for preliminary arrangement). The program-related data may be any one of a program-specifying code, a program itself or an address where the appropriate program is stored. When a bar code symbol is traced, the read dish name (16) such as "BOHEMIAN STEAK" appears on the display window (10a) with a symbol (17) blinking at the beginning of the dish name. If input is to be made for the next dish (Step 103), the select key switch (9e) is depressed (Step 105) to designate the next address unless four inputs have already been made. Then the dish name (16) of the last input is displayed in the upper half zone (10b) of the display window (10a) and the dish name (18) of the new input displayed in the lower half zone (10c). The symbol (17) blinks at the beginning of the newly input dish name (18). Thus, while the names of two dishes (16) and (18) are displayed simultaneously, the symbol (17) helps identify which of the two dishes is input later. The select key switch (9e) is depressed for each input until data of four dishes have been input. When the third input operation is completed, the dish names (16) and (18) of the first and second inputs disappear, and the dish name (19) of the third input is displayed with the symbol (17) blinking at the

front in the upper half zone (10b) of the display window (10a).

Detailed Description Text (24):

(III) The remote controller, which is a vital part of the present invention, provides a data bank function. Specifically, the remote controller stores necessary information on a plurality of dishes picked up from among various dishes introduced in a cook book. Carrying the remote controller to the market, the user can consult the reference data such as names and quantities of primary ingredients of the dishes as well as the time required for preparing the dishes (the sum of heating time and average time required for pre-arrangement) by outputting them on the display window. Therefore, the remote controller serves as a shopping memo, permitting the user to select the most suitable dish from among the plurality of candidates according to availability of ingredients and time allowance.

Detailed Description Text (25):

The remote controller used in the microwave oven of the present invention assists the user not only in preparing dishes but also in planning a menu, so that the most optimum cooking operation as desired by the user can be realized.

CLAIMS:

1. A remote controller of a microwave oven and which is easily transportable by a user to a marketplace, comprising:

bar code reader means for reading a bar code containing recipe data including the dish name, quantity of the required ingredients and cooking procedures therefor;

memory means coupled to the bar code reader means for storing a plurality of recipes comprised of plural sets of multiple data read by said bar code reader means;

display means coupled to the memory means for displaying selected data stored in said memory means including data usable while at the marketplace for operation as a shopping memo by the user;

means coupled to the memory means for selecting and cancelling a particular recipe stored in said memory means;

wireless transmission means coupled to the memory means for transmitting selected recipe data on demand to a microwave oven; and

user control means coupled to the display means, the selecting and cancelling means and the wireless transmission means for controlling the operation of said display means, selecting and cancelling means and wireless transmission means.

4. The remote controller as defined in claim 1, wherein said plurality of recipes comprises four recipes.

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L4: Entry 7 of 7

File: USPT

Feb 21, 1989

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 4807169 A

TITLE: Information device concerning food preparation

Abstract Text (1):

The present invention provides a new and improved method for combining, selecting and preparing food dishes by means of a data storage device or diet calculator. The particular components and ingredients of a meal are stored separately and the data pertaining to a particular meal and/or dish including instructions for preparation can be called up in sequence or can be output through appropriate input commands. The data concerning the menu or recipes of food preparation may be displayed on a display device when retrieved from memory or when entered into memory from the keyboard.

Brief Summary Text (3):

Information transmission of the type to which the invention pertains generally is comprised of written documents on the basis of which kitchens of any size, including large scale ones as well as private households, combine particular food and dishes to obtain meals. In the private domain many people work in their kitchen on the basis of long established customs. A good housewife is generally in a position to compose or prepare a "program" of meals covering roughly 10 to 15 different main dishes for the people to be served. Individuals taking care of themselves usually limit their menu to about four or six different dishes. Generally the desire or even requirement exists to look for new approaches of meal preparation, but these attempts usually do not materialize for reasons of complacency or for lack of the requisite equipment or means.

Brief Summary Text (4):

Therefore the so called state of the art in this instance is presented by illustrated cook books from which one can take dishes including the recipes and methods of approach for making these dishes and preparing meals accordingly. Such books are used primarily in private households but also in restaurants. Aside from other disadvantages the utilization of such cook books often lacks certain hygienic aspects and is neither economical nor technically advantageous. The reason is that standardized meals contained in cook books often do not match the eating habits of the user. Consequently private notations (handwritten notes) or the like are often used to modify the content of these cook books. On the other hand the cook books themselves lack space and facilities for such an expansion.

Brief Summary Text (5):

Another aspect is that quite obviously it is almost impossible to provide a cook book that includes all menu combinations as they are customary in all countries, e.g. for purposes of accommodating special wishes of a guest. The international situation considered against a backfront of large scale, complex economic and personal relations among the people of the world have developed extensively in past decades. One can say here that as a rule a foreign guest may not necessarily be satisfied by a meal taken from a "local" cook book. Concerning the desired flexibility of cook books realization of consent may in fact be impractical or impossible as far as the facilities for food preparation are concerned (until a few years ago nobody knew what a "wok" was). With increasing amounts of food to be prepared existing personnel cannot be expected to consult one or numerous cook books all the time and specifically in between the various (unused) steps that lead to preparation of one or various dishes. Thus, it can be said that the customary well known cook book as it is known today is no longer practical and is based on wrong suppositions and assumptions as far as its use is concerned. It is no longer hygienic in application and its extent is usually too limited. Also, its capability of expanding its case is limited. Obviously loose leaf card files which one may readily update are for many points of view quite impractical to use.

Brief Summary Text (10):

Such a device and arrangement can be used independently from volume restrictions of a cook book. Therefore any initial compilation can be expanded to the extent the system of data storage permits the adding of storage facilities which in case of the hard disk is very extensive but floppy disks on cassettes may amply suffice. Obviously such a system meets hygienic demands better than regular cook books and permits random generation of menus (meals and dishes) as well as random selection and permits, further, to modify numerous dishes corresponding to different tastes as they are ethnically based. Moreover the invention avoids extensive reading processes during food preparation.

Brief Summary Text (11):

Such a device and arrangement can be used from two different points of view. One, it can be used as a regular kind of encyclopedia type cook book or as a device for suggesting various combinations under the consideration of the fact that additional combinations can always be added corresponding to new dishes as they appear and new combinations of dishes and meals. Health aspects are considered by the invention in that the call up program for particular meals/dishes and ingredients can be organized on the basis of calory content, vitamin content and other aspects such as cholesterol etc. Also, vegetable dishes for vegetarians can easily be selected simply through the exclusion of certain "undesirable" ingredients in the cell up procedure. In order to obtain the requisite preconditions for the food preparation as needed in cooking it is of advantage if the device includes, as far as data storage is concerned, information on specific cooking implements. Aside from the stove the implements needed for particular dish can be stored in terms of pots, pot sizes, containers, ladels, skillets, spoons, forks of specialized nature etc.

Brief Summary Text (12):

In order to meet local conditions as well as certain minimum requirements practical considerations may involve protection against moisture, dirt and heat. This involves the electric circuit which should be composed of modules including an input and output module, a microprocessor operated by a clock, a regular working memory and a memory for meal/dish/ingredient preparation-programs as well as an information and data bus that interconnects these components. The microprocessor is used primarily for computation, timing and counting operations as well as comparing tasks, in order to obtain the desired indication of ingredients for meals as well as the requisite recipe information and to control the display. The working storage unit serves for purposes of loading the respective selected meal/dish etc. program which has to be executed. The program storage facility will, in accordance with its capacity, store a number of menus (in the sense of food i.e. combination of dishes) as well as practical information concerning the making and preparation of the meals and dishes included in the menu.

Brief Summary Text (13):

Of particular advantage is of course the fact that information is protected against soiling through food residue. Also, the inventive device is quite small and it is suggested specifically to arrange all electronic components on a small circuit board. Operating the invention under consideration of hygienic food preparation and as they are usually found in the kitchen will be facilitated by providing a keyboard on the outside of the casing that includes the device. The keyboard is operatively connected to the input and output unit or module. The readout of the ssequential preparation steps of individual dishes and meals is facilitated by providing outside of the casing and in operative connection to the input and output module, a menu or dish jump or skip selection key or keys. For controlling the equipment i.e. for obtaining for example the periods of time necessary for preparation of individual meals it is suggested that the clock be equipped with or provided as a stop watch and/or any other clock likewise connected to the input and output module. A start/stop key may be provided and there may be a variety of optical and/or acoustical signals produced having relation to the sequence of the food preparation. In case certain steps in the preparation of certain dishes have to be strictly observed certain steps may have to be taken before the next operating step is initiated. For this it is of advantage if a completion indicating key is provided as operative conection to the input and output module by means of which individual steps can be stopped or deferred.

Brief Summary Text (14):

The equipment can be readily be accomodated for matching different tastes, and different eating

habits in different countries. The program storage facility may be exchangeable. Herein a worldwide use is considered. Each of these "ethnic" or "local" meal programs for example is presented in the form of EPROM which may contain particular customary or usual menu selection as they are customary in particular regions. Depending upon the capability of the device as a whole it is of advantage to configure the keyboard as alphanumeric keyboard but a simple number key may suffice in cheaper models, or both may be provided. The display may use liquid crystal technology. The keyboard may be of the touch type protected by a foil in order to establish hygienic protection of the equipment.

Brief Summary Text (18):

In order to maintain certain safety requirements as well as to maintain the use life of the equipment and in order to consider local conditions it may be of advantage to provide start/stop keys in connection with the display, to provide a key, a menu jump or skip key, the clock and/or stop watch as well as optical and/or acoustical indicators; and the completion key in the immediate vicinity of the actual facilities used for food preparation. On the other hand the storage programming device can be placed elsewhere where it is more convenient to be connected with the aforementioned panel suitable data transmission cable.

Detailed Description Text (3):

The user has access to menu (dish) jump or skip keys 11 and 12 by means of which a particular sequence of meals or dishes can be called up and the user stops through a list thereof, either in forward or backward direction as far as listing is concerned. Reference numeral 13 refers to a general clock which may be constructed as a stop watch 13a whereby in case of stop watch operation a stop key 14 provides for the control of time selection for individual preparation steps. A start key 14c and a stop key 14b is operatively connected to the I/O module 3. The stop key 14b is an interrupt key by means of which the execution of a particular dish and/or meal selection program can be interrupted for emergencies or any other situation. An optical and/or acoustical signal indicator 15 may be used or provided for indication of undesired or impermissible operating steps. In case the operator wants to adhere strictly to the meal program and preparation steps as stored he has to operate after each preparation step a particular completion key 16. Then and only then will the program advance.

Detailed Description Text (4):

The keyboard may be constructed as a simple ten digit key board (10a) or as an alphanumeric keyboard 10b, both keyboards may be provided. In case of a regular ten digit keyboard 10a the display device 17 will display a programmed and selected menu 18 and/or a dish, possibly in conjunction with a list of ingredients and instructions for preparing the particular dish and in addition to a system (or other ID) number 17a which facilitates further inputting. The display device 17 is constructed as a liquid crystal device 17b. The ten digit key board 10a as well as the alphanumeric keyboard 10b have an operating field which is covered with a transparent foil for purposes of protection. The requisite meal and food combination may be printed after the user has in addition inputted the term "ingredients" or a corresponding alphanumeric code. A printer 19 operating with the requisite printing program will then print this information as "order".

CLAIMS:

1. Information device concerning food preparation comprising:

data storage facilities for storing programs representing a description of ingredients;

including basic feed stuff and relative quantities as they relate to particular dishes and meals, and (b) description of preparation and combination of a plurality of individual dishes and meals;

keying means for calling on said information in sequence or at random; and

display means for displaying said information on call, including particularly associative display of information on ingredients and rules for preparation of one or more particular dishes and meals.

2. Device as in claim 1 and including an input/output module connected to said keying means as well as a microprocessor and a bus interconnecting said input/output modules and microprocessor

and storage facility for menu combining programs, the programs for the preparation of dishes and menus, and identifying data for food items.

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24031

L6: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Apr 9, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6370513 B1

TITLE: Method and apparatus for automated selection, organization, and recommendation of items

Detailed Description Text (63):

If the user is not comfortable in submitting a request over the network, the program inquires in step 522 whether to insert the item into the user's shopping list. If the answer is YES, the item is inserted in step 524. In doing so, the program inserts the brand name of the item offered by one of the sponsors of the system. The list may be printed by the user for his or her next shopping trip. The item is also inserted into the user's shopping list if the item is not available in the retailer inventory database.

Detailed Description Text (102):

A user may view his or her weekly menu by selecting a weekly menu option 914, as illustrated in FIG. 22. The user may also view recommendations for a different number of days (e.g. the next two weeks) by entering a desired number in a "Number of days" 916 field, and selecting a "find dishes" button 924. For a day specified as a cook-in day, the system displays recommendations of specified type of dishes (e.g. soup, salad, entree, etc.). A "Show Recipe" button 924 next to the recommended dish allows the user to view a picture of the prepared dish, the dish ingredients, and preparation instructions.

Detailed Description Text (110):

In addition, an "Add all to Shopping Cart" option 920 causes the system to prepare a shopping list of all ingredients necessary for preparing the cook-in meals for the week (or an otherwise specified number of days). In doing so, the system adds the recommended quantities of ingredients required in more than one recipe, rather than listing the same ingredient in multiple locations of the list. For example, if the recipes recommended for day one and day three both require a cup of sugar, the system places two cups of sugar into the shopping list instead of placing a cup of sugar in two separate listings. Furthermore, the system determines whether an ingredient is offered by one of the sponsors of the system. If this is the case, the sponsor's brand name is suggested for the ingredient. For instance, if one of the ingredients to be inserted into the shopping list is cream cheese, and one of the sponsors of the system is Kraft Foods, Inc., the system would place Philadelphia.RTM. cream cheese into the user's shopping list. If the system has access to an inventory database, as is described in further detail above, the system places an ingredient into the shopping list if the user is running low on the ingredient.

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Search Results - Record(s) 1 through 4 of 4 returned.

☐ 1. Document ID: US 20030065651 A1

Using default format because multiple data bases are involved.

L9: Entry 1 of 4

File: PGPB

Apr 3, 2003

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20030065651

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20030065651 A1

TITLE: Apparatus, method, program, and recording medium for ingredient information management

PUBLICATION-DATE: April 3, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	COUNTRY	RULE-47
Naito, Kumiko	Kawasaki		JP	

US-CL-CURRENT: 707/3

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	KWIC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 2. Document ID: US 6859215 B1

L9: Entry 2 of 4

File: USPT

Feb 22, 2005

US-PAT-NO: 6859215

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6859215 B1

TITLE: Method, system and program for specifying an electronic food menu on a data processing system

DATE-ISSUED: February 22, 2005

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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International Business Machines Corporation	Armonk	NY			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 466000 [PALM]

DATE FILED: December 17, 1999

PARENT-CASE:

CROSS-RELATED PATENT APPLICATION The present invention is related to the subject matter of the following commonly assigned, copending United States patent applications identified as application numbers: 09/465,999 and 09/466,051. The content of the above-referenced applications is incorporated herein by reference.

INT-CL: [07] G09G00500

US-CL-ISSUED: 345/811; 705/15, 705/26

US-CL-CURRENT: 715/811; 705/15, 705/26

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 345/811, 345/745, 345/760, 345/810, 345/744, 345/968, 705/15, 705/26

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<u>5412564</u>	May 1995	Ecer	
<u>5559313</u>	September 1996	Claus et al.	
<u>5664110</u>	September 1997	Green et al.	705/1
<u>5727153</u>	March 1998	Powell	235/375
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<u>6026377</u>	February 2000	Burke	235/383
<u>6047327</u>	April 2000	Tso et al.	709/202
<u>6068183</u>	May 2000	Freeman et al.	
<u>6087927</u>	July 2000	Battistini et al.	340/286.06
<u>6088681</u>	July 2000	Coleman et al.	705/1
<u>6123259</u>	September 2000	Ogasawara	235/380
<u>6129274</u>	October 2000	Suzuki	235/380
<u>6208976</u>	March 2001	Kinebuchi et al.	705/15
<u>6236974</u>	May 2001	Kolawa et al.	705/7
<u>6246998</u>	June 2001	Matsumori	345/810
<u>6301564</u>	October 2001	Halverson	705/15
<u>6334109</u>	December 2001	Kanevsky et al.	705/14
<u>6366220</u>	April 2002	Elliot	340/10.1
<u>6401034</u>	June 2002	Kaplan et al.	340/988
<u>6405034</u>	June 2002	Tijerino	455/412
<u>6434530</u>	August 2002	Sloane et al.	235/383

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

QuikOrder Press Release, "San Diegans First to Use Domino's Pizza New On-Line Ordering Through QuikOrder.com", Nov. 1999. (Internet Screen Dumps).

ART-UNIT: 2174

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Luu; Sy D.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Dawkins; Marilyn Smith Dillon & Yudell LLP

ABSTRACT:

Multiple food menu items are retrieved from a data storage medium by a data processing system with access to the data storage medium via a communications medium. The multiple food menu items are compared with previously stored food preferences for a particular customer. A food menu is selected, wherein the food menu items that satisfy said food preferences for said particular customer are distinguished, such that an electronic food menu is specified for a particular customer.

76 Claims, 12 Drawing figures

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	Drawings	Claims	Drawings	Image
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☐ 3. Document ID: US 6646659 B1

L9: Entry 3 of 4

File: USPT

Nov 11, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6646659

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6646659 B1

TITLE: Method, system and program for specifying an electronic food menu with food preferences from a universally accessible database

DATE-ISSUED: November 11, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Brown; Michael Wayne	Georgetown	TX		
Lawrence; Kevin Roderick	Round Rock	TX		
Paolini; Michael A.	Round Rock	TX		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
International Business Machines Corporation	Armonk	NY			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 466051 [PALM]

DATE FILED: December 17, 1999

PARENT-CASE:

CROSS-RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS The present invention is related to the subject matter of the following commonly assigned, copending U.S. patent applications identified as application Ser. Nos. 09/465,999 and 09/466,000. The content of the above-referenced applications is incorporated herein by reference.

INT-CL: [07] G09 G 5/00

US-CL-ISSUED: 345/811; 345/745, 705/15, 705/26

US-CL-CURRENT: 715/811; 705/15, 705/26, 715/745

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 345/810, 345/811, 345/968, 345/744, 345/745, 345/760, 705/15, 705/26

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<u>5412564</u>	May 1995	Ecer	
<u>5559313</u>	September 1996	Claus et al.	
<u>5664110</u>	September 1997	Green et al.	705/1
<u>5727153</u>	March 1998	Powell	235/375
<u>5845263</u>	December 1998	Camaisa et al.	705/27
<u>5899502</u>	May 1999	Del Giorno	283/117
<u>5969316</u>	October 1999	Greer et al.	235/375
<u>5991739</u>	November 1999	Cupps et al.	705/26
<u>6026377</u>	February 2000	Burke	235/383
<u>6047327</u>	April 2000	Tso et al.	709/202
<u>6068183</u>	May 2000	Freeman et al.	235/375
<u>6087927</u>	July 2000	Battistini et al.	340/286.06
<u>6088681</u>	July 2000	Coleman et al.	705/1
<u>6123259</u>	September 2000	Ogasawara	235/380
<u>6129274</u>	October 2000	Suzuki	235/380
<u>6208976</u>	March 2001	Kinebuchi et al.	705/15
<u>6236974</u>	May 2001	Kolawa et al.	705/7
<u>6246998</u>	June 2001	Matsumori	345/810
<u>6301564</u>	October 2001	Halverson	705/15
<u>6334109</u>	December 2001	Kanevsky et al.	705/14
<u>6366220</u>	April 2002	Elliott	340/10.1
<u>6401034</u>	June 2002	Kaplan et al.	340/988
<u>6405034</u>	June 2002	Tijerino	455/412
<u>6434530</u>	August 2002	Sloane et al.	235/383
<u>6553386</u>	April 2003	Alabaster	707/104.1

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

QuikOrder Press Release, "San Diegans First to Use Domino's Pizza New On-Line Ordering Through QuikOrder.com", Nov. 1999. (Internet Screen Dumps).

ART-UNIT: 2174

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Luu; Sy D.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Dawkins; Marilyn Smith Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.

ABSTRACT:

Food preferences for a particular customer are requested from a universally accessible database, wherein a key for the particular customer is required to access the food preferences for the particular customer. The food preferences for the particular customer are compared with multiple previously stored food menu items. A food menu comprising only said food menu items that satisfy the food preferences for the particular customer are selected, such that an electronic food menu is specified for a particular customer.

67 Claims, 13 Drawing figures

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	KWIC	Draw. Desc	Image
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☐ 4. Document ID: US 6618062 B1

L9: Entry 4 of 4

File: USPT

Sep 9, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6618062
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6618062 B1

TITLE: Method, system and program for specifying an electronic menu with food preferences from a personal storage device

DATE-ISSUED: September 9, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Brown; Michael Wayne	Georgetown	TX		
Lawrence; Kevin Roderick	Round Rock	TX		
Paolini; Michael A.	Round Rock	TX		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
International Business Machines Corporation	Armonk	NY			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 465999 [PALM]
DATE FILED: December 17, 1999

PARENT-CASE:

CROSS-RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS The present invention is related to the subject matter of the following commonly assigned, copending U.S. patent applications identified as application Ser. Nos. 09/466,000 and 09/466,051. The content of the above-referenced applications is incorporated herein by reference.

INT-CL: [07] G09 G 5/00

US-CL-ISSUED: 345/822; 345/810
US-CL-CURRENT: 715/822; 715/810

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 345/810, 345/811, 345/968, 345/744, 345/745, 345/760, 345/821-824, 705/15, 705/26

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<u>5412564</u>	May 1995	Ecer	
<u>5559313</u>	September 1996	Claus et al.	
<u>5664110</u>	September 1997	Green et al.	705/1
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<u>5969316</u>	October 1999	Greer et al.	235/375
<u>5991739</u>	November 1999	Cupps et al.	705/26
<u>6026377</u>	February 2000	Burke	235/383
<u>6047327</u>	April 2000	Tso et al.	709/202
<u>6068183</u>	May 2000	Freeman et al.	

<u>6087927</u>	July 2000	Battistini et al.	340/286.06
<u>6088681</u>	July 2000	Coleman et al.	705/1
<u>6123259</u>	September 2000	Ogasawara	235/380
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<u>6208976</u>	March 2001	Kinebuchi et al.	705/15
<u>6236974</u>	May 2001	Kolawa et al.	705/7
<u>6246998</u>	June 2001	Matsumori	345/810
<u>6301564</u>	October 2001	Halverson	705/15
<u>6334109</u>	December 2001	Kanevsky et al.	705/14
<u>6366220</u>	April 2002	Elliott	340/10.1
<u>6401034</u>	June 2002	Kaplan et al.	340/988
<u>6405034</u>	June 2002	Tijerino	455/412
<u>6434530</u>	August 2002	Sloane et al.	235/383

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

QuikOrder Press Release, "San Diegans First to Use Domino's Pizza New On-Line Ordering Through QuikOrder.com", Nov. 1999. (Internet Screen Dumps).

ART-UNIT: 2174

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Luu; Sy D.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Dawkins; Marilyn Smith Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.

ABSTRACT:

Food preferences for a particular customer are retrieved from a personal storage device, wherein the personal storage device is proffered from the particular customer. The food preferences for the particular customer are compared with multiple previously stored food menu items. A food menu is selected wherein the food menu items that satisfy the food preferences for the particular customer are distinguished, such that an electronic food menu is specified for a particular customer.

77 Claims, 13 Drawing figures

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	KWIC	Draw Desc	Image
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Term	Documents
SHOPS	26534
SHOP	64812
(7 AND SHOPS).PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD.	4
(L7 AND (SHOPS)).PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD.	4

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 Derwent World Patents Index
 IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

Term:

L7 and stock\$

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Documents in Display Format:

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DB=PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD; PLUR=YES; OP=OR

<u>L11</u>	L7 and stock\$	3	<u>L11</u>
<u>L10</u>	L9 and stock	1	<u>L10</u>
<u>L9</u>	L7 and (shops)	4	<u>L9</u>
<u>L8</u>	L7 and (maker\$ or brand)	1	<u>L8</u>
<u>L7</u>	L1 and (amount near ingredient\$)	22	<u>L7</u>
<u>L6</u>	L1 and (brand near name)	1	<u>L6</u>
<u>L5</u>	L4 and (brand near name)	0	<u>L5</u>
<u>L4</u>	L3 and recipe\$	7	<u>L4</u>
<u>L3</u>	L2 and (ingredient near information)	10	<u>L3</u>
<u>L2</u>	L1 and menu	32	<u>L2</u>
<u>L1</u>	ingredient\$ near dish\$	172	<u>L1</u>

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L8: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Apr 9, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6370513 B1

TITLE: Method and apparatus for automated selection, organization, and recommendation of items

Detailed Description Text (63):

If the user is not comfortable in submitting a request over the network, the program inquires in step 522 whether to insert the item into the user's shopping list. If the answer is YES, the item is inserted in step 524. In doing so, the program inserts the brand name of the item offered by one of the sponsors of the system. The list may be printed by the user for his or her next shopping trip. The item is also inserted into the user's shopping list if the item is not available in the retailer inventory database.

Detailed Description Text (65):

In a recipe recommendation system, the individual user's personal computer 14, set-top box 18, or HPC 20 (FIG. 1) optionally includes an inventory control subsystem which keeps track of ingredients used for meal preparations. According to this embodiment, the personal computer 14, set-top box 18, or HPC hosts a home inventory database storing an inventory table of ingredients available at the user's home. Each entry in the table specifies a UPC code for the ingredient, the amount available, and the expiration date. New items can be automatically or manually added to the database. For instance, every time a grocery item is ordered via the Internet, the inventory control subsystem automatically inserts the item ordered into the inventory table. Alternatively, the update may be made when the goods are actually delivered to the user. In this scenario, the individual uses a bar coder reader to manually scan the UPC code on the goods delivered. The information may also be keyed into the subsystem via the keyboard or touch screen display.

Detailed Description Text (88):

FIG. 17 is a flow diagram of an exemplary parsing and recipe vector creation process according to one embodiment of the invention. The computer program starts by taking an original recipe from the original recipes directory 876, and in step 954, inquires whether there are any more ingredients to parse. If the answer is yes, the program parses out an ingredient in step 956. The program also asks in step 958 whether the parsed ingredient exists in the chemical database 878. If it does, the system maps the chemical compositions making up the ingredient to an ingredient vector. In doing so, the system searches the chemical database for a record corresponding to the ingredient. If the record is found, the system sets the values of the ingredient vector according to the chemical values stored in the located record. The system then multiplies the values in the ingredient vector with the weight/amount of the ingredient called for in the recipe. In addition, the system might multiply each field in the ingredient vector by the weight (scaling coefficient) assigned to the field. Chemical compositions which make greater contributions to an ingredient's taste and attribute are given higher weights than those that do not have much effect on neither taste nor attribute. For instance proteins and sugars are given a maximum possible weight (e.g. 100 in a scale of 0-100), while energy and calcium are given low weights (e.g. 0.1 in a scale of 0-100).

Detailed Description Text (102):

A user may view his or her weekly menu by selecting a weekly menu option 914, as illustrated in FIG. 22. The user may also view recommendations for a different number of days (e.g. the next two weeks) by entering a desired number in a "Number of days" 916 field, and selecting a "find dishes" button 924. For a day specified as a cook-in day, the system displays recommendations of specified type of dishes (e.g. soup, salad, entree, etc.). A "Show Recipe" button 924 next to the recommended dish allows the user to view a picture of the prepared dish, the dish ingredients, and preparation instructions.

Detailed Description Text (110):

In addition, an "Add all to Shopping Cart" option 920 causes the system to prepare a shopping list of all ingredients necessary for preparing the cook-in meals for the week (or an otherwise specified number of days). In doing so, the system adds the recommended quantities of ingredients required in more than one recipe, rather than listing the same ingredient in multiple locations of the list. For example, if the recipes recommended for day one and day three both require a cup of sugar, the system places two cups of sugar into the shopping list instead of placing a cup of sugar in two separate listings. Furthermore, the system determines whether an ingredient is offered by one of the sponsors of the system. If this is the case, the sponsor's brand name is suggested for the ingredient. For instance, if one of the ingredients to be inserted into the shopping list is cream cheese, and one of the sponsors of the system is Kraft Foods, Inc., the system would place Philadelphia.RTM. cream cheese into the user's shopping list. If the system has access to an inventory database, as is described in further detail above, the system places an ingredient into the shopping list if the user is running low on the ingredient.

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L11: Entry 2 of 3

File: USPT

Jul 1, 1986

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 4597974 A

TITLE: Sauce and gravy compositions

Brief Summary Text (2):

This invention relates generally to the formulation of novel sauce and gravy compositions. More particularly, this invention relates to such sauces and gravies derived from meat or fish stock or utilizing a wine and/or other liquid base and incorporating a novel combination of natural ingredients to impart the proper thickness, smoothness and stability. These sauces and gravies may be packaged separately and so vended for use by the consumer to embellish meat or fish dishes prepared in such manner as not to yield a sauce or gravy, such as grilled meats, or they may be used in the preparation of meat or fish-in-sauce or gravy precooked, packaged convenience food products in individual or multiple size portions which can be stored for long periods of time under refrigeration and which can be quickly and easily reheated for final serving. This invention also relates to a method for preparing such food products.

Detailed Description Text (12):

At this point, the liquid phase cooking medium decanted from the separate cooking of meat or fish is added to the sauce base. This liquid is composed of either hot oil or water depending on the method of cooking the food (i.e. sauteing or boiling, respectively) and also contains the cook-out juices from the meat or fish and any optionally added bits of vegetables added for flavor. Alternatively, if the particular sauce being prepared does not call for meat or fish stock, or additionally if the recipe so calls for, other liquids, particularly wine, vinegar or juices extracted from vegetables such as mushrooms may be added to the sauce base. The total liquid phase materials added at this step account for from 70 to 90 weight percent of the total sauce composition depending on the sauce prepared. The temperature of the cooking ingredients is then reduced to around 100.degree. C.

Detailed Description Text (19):

Raw solid food ingredients for the dish to be prepared, such as meat or fish and vegetables, are obtained in bulk in a fresh or frozen state. Preferably fresh raw materials are used to yield final food products of the highest culinary quality. Frozen raw materials may however also be used, and yield prepared dishes of acceptably high quality.

Detailed Description Text (43):

Food and sauce for approximately 100 portions of Beef Bourguignon were prepared using the following ingredients in the amounts and percentages indicated.

Detailed Description Text (54):

Food and sauce for approximately 100 portions of Stewed Chicken Bordelaise were prepared using the following ingredients in the amounts and percentages indicated.

Detailed Description Text (67):

Approximately 100 liters of sauce were prepared according to the following procedure using ingredients in the amounts specified.

Detailed Description Paragraph Table (7):

	<u>Ingredients Amount</u> (Liters)
White Wine 6.500 Wine Vinegar 3.250 Shallots (chopped to 6 mm pieces) 4.540 Butter 1.760 16.050	

Detailed Description Paragraph Table (8):

	<u>Ingredient Amount</u> (Liters)
"Reduction" 7.355 Butter (1st portion) 2.140 Rice Starch	

1.300 Thick Fresh Cream 65.630 Water 12.540 Butter (2nd portion) 9.460 Carob-Bean Flour 0.360
Table salt 0.940 White pepper 0.130 99.855

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<u>L1</u>	ingredient\$ near dish\$	172	<u>L1</u>

END OF SEARCH HISTORY